

## Making Placemats and other quilted objects:

Quilted items like placemats are popular for the Bags, Babies & Beyond.

### Quick Tips:

1. Items to make include: placemats, tea cozies, casserole carriers, oven mitts, themed table runners, hot mats etc.
2. Choose fabrics wisely. The more interesting the fabric or design the more likely it will be to sell. Cotton or cotton blends are the best fabric choice.
3. All fabrics for place mats should be pre-washed. Batting does not have to be washed but fabrics might shrink so pre wash.
4. Battings: “ Warm and natural” or “ warm and white” work well. They are easy to quilt and hold their shape. Insul bright should be used for oven mitts but should still have another layer of other batting as an added protection. Insul bright should NOT be used for anything that might go into the microwave. Insul bright also works well for table mats.
5. Patterns for placemats: often simple is better than more complicated. Sizes are generally about 13 x 18. Smaller sizes work well also. The most important thing is that the set of 4 or 6 should all be exactly the same size. Other shapes than square are interesting...especially for round tables.
6. When cutting out your placemats the batting and backing are generally cut bigger to allow for quilting. The placemat is then squared up before the binding is applied.
7. Quilting Options: quilting helps the placemat or other item hold its shape. Simple quilting is easier and often more effective. You can pre quilt layers of fabric by making a ‘quilt sandwich’. Put backing, batting and top fabric together with right sides of the fabric out. Quilt in straight lines about 3 inches apart. This pre-quilted material can then be cut into the appropriate shapes for your project.
8. Use chalk or other quilting markers to draw quilting designs to stitch.
9. A simple appliqué such as stars or ornaments for Christmas or a child’s toy on a children’s placemat can add interest and appeal. Fusible web and satin stitched edges work well for appliqué. A patchwork design can come from your fabric stash and be very attractive. A pocket to hold utensils adds interest and usefulness.
10. Binding the edges. Placemats can be double sided with no binding or you can attach bindings as you would for a quilt. Wide bias tape works well for binding or you can make your own to colour match your fabric.
11. Napkins can be made to match the sets of placemats. Napkins are generally a 17” square with very neatly hemmed edges.
12. At the sale the prices for sets of placemats or placemats and napkins will range from \$10.00 to \$30.00 so consider your work time, fabric choices and costs carefully.

### Sources for Patterns:

There are hundreds of different free patterns on the Internet that you can use for ideas for placemats. Use your imagination and consider the fabric that you have and fabric combinations that will create attractive, interesting items.

Do a Google search using “free place mat patterns” and you will find something that you like. This listing has some interesting patterns. [40 Free Placemat Patterns](#)